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Technical cooperation among developing countries

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Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

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I. Introduction

1. In accordance with recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1] as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, a high-level meeting of all States participating in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was convened at Geneva from 26 May to 2 June 1980 to carry out an overall, intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) within the United Nations development system. The report of the first session of the intergovernmental body[2] was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. In its resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the General Assembly decided to change the name of the high-level meeting to High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and requested the Administrator of UNDP to convene the next session of the Committee under the same organizational and procedural arrangements as had been made for the high-level meeting.

2. The second session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 1 to 8 June 1981 and its report[3] was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. In accordance with the agreement reached at the Committee's second session and endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, the structure of the third session of the High-level Committee consisted of the Committee in plenary meeting and only one working group, and this practice has been followed at subsequent sessions.

3. The third session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 31 May to 6 June 1983 and its report[4] was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

4. The fourth session was held in New York from 28 May to 3 June 1985. Its report[5] was considered by the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

5. The fifth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 May 1987 and its report[6] was adopted on 27 May 1987. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-second session.

6. The sixth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 September 1989 and its report[7] was adopted on 29 September 1989. The General Assembly reviewed that report at its forty-fourth session.

7. The seventh session was held in New York from 28 to 31 May 1991 and its report[8] was adopted on 6 June 1991. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-sixth session.

8. The eighth session was held in New York from 25 to 28 May 1993 and its report[9] was adopted on 4 June 1993. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-eighth session.

9. The ninth session was held in New York from 30 May to 2 June 1995. The General Assembly considered that report[10] at its fiftieth session.

10. The tenth session was held in New York from 5 to 9 May 1997. The General Assembly considered that report[11] at its fifty-second session.

11. The eleventh session was held in New York from 1 to 4 June 1999. The General Assembly considered that report[12] at its fifty-fourth session.

II. Attendance and opening of the session

A. Date and place of the session

12. The twelfth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was held in New York from 29 May to 1 June 2001.

13. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202, the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

B. Attendance

14. The following Member States of the United Nations participating in UNDP were represented at the session:

Algeria
Argentina
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Bolivia
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Czech Republic
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Fiji
France
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lebanon
Lesotho
Malaysia
Maldives
Malta
Mexico
Mongolia
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Slovak Republic
South Africa
Sudan
Sweden
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia

15. The following regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

16. The following United Nations bodies, funds and programmes were also represented:

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Capital Development Fund

United Nations Volunteers

United Nations Population Fund

United Nations University

17. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations attended the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Labour Organization

International Maritime Organization

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Universal Postal Union

World Bank

World Food Programme

World Health Organization

World Intellectual Property Organization

World Meteorological Organization

18. The following intergovernmental organizations, which have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, were represented at the session:

European Community

Organization of African Unity

Organization of the Islamic Conference

19. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers:

African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development

Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development

Asian Development Bank

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Islamic Development Bank

Pan American Health Organization

Sistema Económico Latinoamericano

South Centre

Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries

Third World Network of Scientific Organizations

West Africa Rice Development Association

20. The following individuals who received a special invitation to attend the session as keynote speaker and/or panellist attended the session:

Dr. M. H. A. Hassan (Third World Network of Scientific Organizations)

Dr. Amitav Rath (Policy Research International, Inc.)

Dr. Mervat Badawi (Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development)

Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze (West Africa Rice Development Association)

Dr. Gordon Conway (Rockefeller Foundation)

Dr. Keiichi Muraoka (Japan International Cooperation Agency)

C. Opening of the session

21. The twelfth session of the High-level Committee was opened, on behalf of the Secretary-General, by the President of the twelfth session, Ambassador Alounkèo Kittikhoun.

III. Reports on implementation

A. Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations as the President of the Committee at its twelfth session

22. In calling the meeting to order, the President highlighted the importance of the South in terms of its population, the diversity of its bio-resources, the vastness of its energy resources and therefore its significance for sustainable human development.

Referring to his participation in the recently concluded Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), including the final agreement on a programme of action, he observed that these meetings have a common thread: strategies for international development encompassing the countries of the South. He also recalled the high priority accorded to South-South cooperation at the South Summit last year and urged the Committee to devise ways and means for converting the rhetoric into practical measures.

23. He highlighted the message of cooperation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and more specifically of the new directions strategy. In this context, he emphasized the need for partnerships, networks, institutional mechanisms, resources, policies, concrete actions and cooperative arrangements for accelerating human development and eliminating poverty in the South. At the same time, he urged intensive partnership and collaboration among the countries of the South for equitable socio-economic progress.

24. The President expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General in responding to the needs of the international community. He also praised UNDP and the Special Unit for TCDC for supporting South-South cooperation generally and especially in the United Nations system.

B. Statement by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

25. In his opening statement, the Administrator welcomed the new Director of the Special Unit for TCDC, Madame Safiatou Ba-N'Daw, and paid tribute to Mr. Francis Blain, who, as Officer-in-Charge, had been responsible for all the preparations for the meeting and who has given devoted service to the Special Unit for TCDC.

26. The Administrator recalled that many of the development goals put forth in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 23 years ago were reiterated in the goals set by the world leaders at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. He observed that then and now, world leaders have committed themselves to creating a world free of the misery bred by poverty and that, while international efforts to correct disparities between the rich and the poor had begun in the 1940s, unfortunately, the imbalances still exist. New tools, new thinking, new partnerships, new business models, new knowledge and a more generous funding base are required to achieve the development goals set for 2015.

27. He noted that developing countries that have reached a relatively high level of human development are already assuming a lead role and have become the main hubs and benefactors of South-South cooperation. Simultaneously, South-South cooperation has also become a big tent with room for northern development partners, especially in research and development efforts requiring both a critical mass of expertise and complementary financial resources. The Administrator cited the development of NERICA (New Rice for Africa) in West Africa as a model of inclusive South-South cooperation with room for northern partners and inputs and observed that cooperation of a similar nature was urgently needed in combating HIV/AIDS. Developing countries could provide successful models for handling the problem, but donor assistance — both research and financing — was also needed, as

indicated by the Secretary-General in his call for $7-10 billion of additional assistance during the General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS.

28. The Administrator welcomed the decision of the first meeting of the High-level Committee in the new millennium to devote its time to the consideration of science and technology for development. He noted that while the old motto for South-South cooperation was "building bridges across the South", the thinking today must focus on "placing the South on the twenty-first century's global superhighways". He expressed the hope that the revolution in information and communications technology would contribute significantly to bridging the gap between the rich and the poor. He warned, however, that this would not happen automatically. Strategies to promote necessary human and physical infrastructure need to be developed by developing countries, with assistance from international development partners where necessary.

29. He reiterated the commitment of UNDP to remain "the developing countries' development organization" and to "continue as a reliable source of funding for South-South cooperation". TCDC, he added, would remain the first and the preferred approach in the delivery of services to the developing countries. He also restated his commitment, made at the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs in Brussels, that UNDP seeks to boost South-South cooperation as an area with particular potential for LDCs. He expressed his strong support for the view stressed in the Programme of Action adopted in the South Summit that "South-South cooperation is a crucially important tool for developing and strengthening the economic independence of developing countries".

C. Introduction of the reports by the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries: highlights of the progress reports

30. The Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries introduced the three reports for the consideration of the High-level Committee. She explained that the reports are based on information gathered through responses to questionnaires received from Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as information from various reports and data generated through the activities and contacts of the Special Unit for TCDC.

Comprehensive biennial report of the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee

31. The report indicates that developing countries increasingly realize that greater use of the TCDC modality is warranted to seize the opportunities presented by globalization. In fact, a large number of developing countries have improved the institutional and policy environment for TCDC. They are also providing more financial and technical resources for capacity-building in other developing countries, with the highest level of cooperation in the area of human resource development. There is also significant growth in two-way exchanges between developing countries. In addition, collaborative efforts to identify and address

common issues of interest are increasing and there is substantial growth in regional and interregional TCDC initiatives.

32. At the same time, greater donor support is observed for third-country training programmes and the use of southern experts and institutions in delivering technical cooperation. Support to centres of excellence in the developing countries, strengthening of networks of southern institutions and a thematic programme approach are some of the instruments adopted by many donors to finance TCDC initiatives. Support to both technical and economic cooperation among developing countries (TCDC and ECDC) is increasingly provided through triangular arrangements.

33. The review confirms that the United Nations development system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are placing emphasis on regional cooperation programmes, networking, research and development, and the analysis and solution of pressing issues relating to globalization. All United Nations organizations are geared to supporting TCDC and many of them have devised special modalities for this purpose, e.g., the Special Programme for Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), South-South Trade Promotion Programme of the International Trade Centre, Entrepreneurship Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EMPTREC) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Partners in Population and Development Programme of the United Nations Population Fund, and the Programme of Inter-country Cooperation for Health Development in the Twenty-first Century of the World Health Organization.

34. Further to its traditional role as the main source of funding for TCDC, UNDP has moved forward in its role as South-South knowledge broker with the launch of the Web of Information for Development (WIDE), which provides an array of information services. It is also pioneering such flagship initiatives as a participatory approach to programme development, which involves a large number of partners in a platform of diverse activities focusing on specific development issues.

35. The review recommends a redoubling of efforts by developing countries and the preparation of programmes suitable for wider partnerships and financial support under triangular arrangements. Developing countries should also improve the coordination of their numerous initiatives on addressing difficult development problems. The United Nations development system should also increase its efforts to mainstream TCDC and link its information systems to make them easily available to developing countries. Finally, the report recommends greater donor support for TCDC.

Biennial report on the progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

36. The report notes significant progress in implementing the new directions strategy, especially in areas such as the strategic orientation of TCDC activities, advancing TCDC through pivotal countries, new developments in triangular cooperation, sharing knowledge and experiences and the integration of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries.

37. The review finds that many complex issues of common interest have compelled groups of countries to pool their limited resources to address them jointly

and develop common positions, particularly in meeting the challenges of globalization. The strategic importance of science and technology in the emerging knowledge society has induced developing countries to collaborate and seek solutions through concerted efforts. Private-sector development through interregional initiatives such as the Africa-Asia Business Forum has also led to TCDC and ECDC involving large numbers of countries and parties promoting both trade and investment.

38. Pivotal countries have served as major hubs for and benefactors of TCDC during the reporting period, contributing to human resource development and the strengthening of institutional capacity in the developing countries. They have also played a crucial part in the promotion of trade and investment, albeit with resource support under triangular arrangements. However, the potential for developing flagship programmes for the exploitation of pivotal-country resources in information technology or investment has been less than optimal due to the lack of coordination and frequent use of ad hoc measures.

39. The review confirms that triangular cooperation has provided an avenue for using aid more effectively. Technical cooperation has been more relevant and less costly under triangular arrangements. With less aid, donors have delivered more effective support to recipient countries and strengthened partnerships among many recipients.

40. The review also finds that South-South channels of communication have expanded and the Special Unit for TCDC has played a vital role in this expansion, with the collaboration of both developed and developing countries. However, WIDE, launched by UNDP in 2000, needs to be enriched by linkages with information systems in the United Nations development system as well as with other databases maintained by regional or learned bodies.

41. It is further observed that TCDC activities are beginning to address a broad mix of socio-economic development issues, leading to the much-needed integration of TCDC and ECDC. As development thinking shifts towards sustainable human development and parallel good governance and economic development, South-South initiatives are required to move easily from technical collaboration to joint efforts in social and economic development.

Consideration of the reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

42. The report states that the Guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning TCDC are being followed by all United Nations organizations, which have designated TCDC focal points; most of them have also adopted special modalities to use TCDC in their operational activities. However, while TCDC and ECDC were widely practised, much of the information on TCDC and ECDC activities was not being captured by the respective reporting systems. A United Nations system-wide common results framework has been prepared and should be included in the Guidelines. All organizations should report on normative and operational results indicators as well as innovative approaches to TCDC and ECDC and include successful practices that could be replicated.

43. Most organizations have invested heavily in creating databases and information systems, some of which have proved to be very helpful to the

developing countries, e.g., the FAO Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pest and Diseases Programme, Local Government Training and Research Institutes Network (LOGOTRI) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) or WIPONET of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The report recommended that the compilation of best practices be increased and linkages between information systems of United Nations organizations and WIDE be placed on a regular and firmer footing.

44. The report briefly covered the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, noting the low level of contributions ($487,000) for the biennium under consideration, and urged a special effort to mobilize additional resources. It also provided a review of the Forum on South-South Cooperation in Science and Technology held in Seoul in 2000.

45. The report indicated that the Special Unit for TCDC functioned with seven Professional and seven General Service staff during the biennium. It managed $8.5 million in core resources and mobilized $11.9 million in non-core resources. The Special Unit for TCDC developed and piloted flagship programmes with a view to forging broader partnerships and mobilizing increased resources for decentralized programmes in the field. It also decided to outpost two officers to the field to promote this kind of activity.

IV. Summary of the general debate

A. Overview

46. The general debate was begun by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He welcomed the positive and encouraging developments in the expansion of technical cooperation among developing countries and the growth of innovative and new patterns of cooperation and collaboration during the biennium under report. He pointed out that the South Summit held in Havana in September 2000 considered South-South cooperation as an effective instrument for optimizing development through sharing the resources and expertise of the developing countries and complementing cooperation with developed countries. He noted with satisfaction the greater involvement of developing countries as providers or recipients of TCDC or both and the improvement in the policy and institutional environment for TCDC in these countries. He acknowledged that the increasing sophistication and complexity of TCDC activities, greater regional and inter-country cooperation among developing countries, increased resource allocations for TCDC by developing countries, greater emphasis on long-term cooperation and enhanced modalities of triangular cooperation marked the maturity of the emerging trends in the area of TCDC observed in the previous biennium.

47. He applauded the role of the Special Unit for TCDC in promoting and expanding the scope and vision for TCDC and welcomed the endeavours of the Administrator to give priority to TCDC in the work of UNDP generally. While commending the focus of TCDC on strategic interventions involving large numbers of countries and longer-term commitment, he cautioned that short- and medium-term activities should not be neglected. He commended the close collaboration and

cooperation of the Special Unit for TCDC with intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions of the South.

48. He acknowledged the important and leading role of the pivotal TCDC countries and especially their increased allocation of resources for TCDC. He stated that their capacities as well as successful interventions should be documented and disseminated through WIDE. He also urged the donor countries to leverage these increased resource allocations with additional assistance in the interest of rapid and cost-effective global economic development.

49. He stated that TCDC activities should not only be promoted but successful activities should also be adequately reported and disseminated in order to ensure a multiplier impact on development. He also emphasized the importance of regional economic cooperation and integration in meeting the challenges of globalization and suggested that collaboration among such regional groups should be instituted and enhanced.

50. He concluded by submitting that in general, the strengthening of TCDC as a means of promoting cooperation for development has been constrained by a lack of resources despite all the advances made in its application by the developing countries and recommended various measures for this purpose, including innovative mechanisms to promote and enhance TCDC activities, partnership of the private sector and NGOs in TCDC activities, increased contributions by donors to the core resources of UNDP, and contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation.

51. The representative of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the European Union, the Central and East European countries associated with the European Union (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and the associated countries (Cyprus, Malta and Turkey), confirmed that TCDC has an important role to play in achieving the goals and objectives of international development set by the Millennium Summit in 2000. TCDC should in particular enhance local, national and regional capacities and continue to be an important element in national development policies as well as in policies of other development actors, including the United Nations system. He stated that South-South cooperation has a special role in areas such as governance, capacity-building, technical assistance and exchanges of best practices, particularly on issues relating to health, education, professional training, environment, science and technology, trade, investment and transit transport cooperation.

52. He expressed satisfaction at the more active role of developing countries with regard to TCDC activities. He also welcomed the adoption by developing countries of more sophisticated and comprehensive approaches and strategies to meet development challenges and commended long-term engagement in programmes such as poverty reduction. The increasing involvement of the civil society in TCDC, giving due place to the private sector and NGOs, was also noted as a propitious development.

53. He reiterated that responsibility for taking the initiative to implement and secure the financing of TCDC rests primarily with the developing countries themselves and it is their commitment on which the success of TCDC depends. He also welcomed the new developments in triangular cooperation in areas such as human resource development and research and institutional capacity-building.

54. The representative of the European Union concluded by stating that TCDC could certainly help States to meet the challenges of globalization and benefit from the opportunities it offers. He supported the work of the United Nations system to promote TCDC in all relevant programmes and thought that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process provides an excellent entry point to enable UNDP and other United Nations Development Group (UNDG) partners to mainstream TCDC into programmes.

55. Most members indicated their support for the views expressed by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. They appreciated the progress in the application of the TCDC modality and were pleased by the lead role of the pivotal countries in expanding TCDC. It was considered that expertise available in the developing countries taken together was by no means inadequate, but in order to find solutions to development problems and meet the challenges of globalization, it was necessary to pool and share experiences and coordinate strategies and techniques. Broad-based partnership in any economic or social development initiative was the refrain of the statements by most members.

56. There was universal recognition of the importance of human resource development in meeting the challenges of both sustainable development and the process of globalization. All countries emphasized the overarching role of TCDC in capacity-building and noted that significant progress had been achieved in this respect in the biennium under consideration. It was noted that TCDC was most pronounced in the field of education and training and many developing countries were well equipped to impart quality education and training. Even in research and development, the pooled capacities of developing countries was quite rich and with complementary northern input, it could be further enhanced. The field of capacity development was also the area where triangular cooperation was playing a big role.

57. Despite all the progress and the innovations in the use of the TCDC modality and the increased allocation of physical, human and financial resources for TCDC by developing countries, resource constraint was identified as the most serious impediment to development cooperation. The increase in voluntary contributions to development aid, allocation of more resources for triangular cooperation, and direct donor support of TCDC and ECDC initiatives were recommended by most members.

58. In the interactive exchange, the meeting identified weaknesses of national TCDC focal points, particularly in Africa, as a serious bottleneck. Institutional strength and quality of human resources surfaced repeatedly as the main focus of most interventions. The upgrading of capacity in the least developed countries (LDCs) and enhancement of their absorptive capacity also featured as an area of special attention for TCDC. Lack of inexpensive access to scientific literature and technological innovations for common use also appeared to be a constraint in harnessing science and technology for development. There was a call for harmonization or coordination of activities by the developing countries to face the challenges of globalization. Some members pointed out that while horizontal cooperation within a region was not so difficult, interregional cooperation needed some intermediary such as the Special Unit for TCDC or Economic and Social Commissions. Some members wanted to know more about the resources and programmes of both the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund.

59. A number of delegations expressed a desire for more interaction with the Special Unit between the biennial meetings of the Committee and a proactive role for the President and the Bureau of the Committee in such an effort. The President assured the Committee of his commitment to work very closely with the other members of the Bureau, the delegations of the Member States and the Special Unit in facilitating the process and in monitoring the implementation of the decisions of the Committee. The Director of the Special Unit also pledged her full commitment and support in this effort.

B. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee

60. Most countries provided detailed information about their TCDC and South-South cooperation policies, strategies, institutional arrangements, programmes and initiatives. Some United Nations organizations as well as intergovernmental organizations supplemented the information provided in the Administrator's report (TCDC/12/1).

61. It was evident from the debate that most developing countries had strengthened their institutional capacity for managing TCDC and many had clearly articulated their policies on this modality. They were supplementing public undertakings by drawing in the private sector as well as the non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Many also took the opportunity while describing their policies and strategies to give further information on their programmes and financial allocations for TCDC, but a few regretted that their national TCDC focal points were either not well organized or not functioning well and thus they could not benefit significantly from South-South cooperation. They sought support from the Special Unit for TCDC to improve their capacity and suggested that regional meetings of national TCDC focal points represented a useful mechanism for learning about initiating and managing TCDC. One member lamented that while the Latin America and the Caribbean region was reaping important benefits from TCDC, Africa was lagging far behind.

62. There was general appreciation of the greater interest of the United Nations development system and UNDP in particular in promoting and expanding TCDC. Some delegations emphasized the need for greater involvement of the country offices of UNDP in the TCDC initiatives of member countries. Cases of triangular cooperation were often cited as an endorsement of the new approach on forging broad-based partnerships in TCDC, which ensured more and better technical services at minimal cost. Some countries suggested that triangular cooperation should be considered a new model for development cooperation. At the same time, many countries urged further action on mainstreaming TCDC in the activities of the United Nations organizations and greater donor support for TCDC initiatives.

63. Since the meeting of the High-level Committee followed the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs and preceded the conference on financing for development, many delegations brought up the question of special measures for the LDCs. The plight of the landlocked countries also came up for consideration. It was acknowledged that other developing countries could mitigate the difficulties of these groups of countries by sharing their experiences and techniques and collaborating on technical cooperation programmes. It was important to identify the areas of cooperation and then concentrate on them. Most countries felt that partnerships,

both broad-based and of long duration, had the potential to assist these disadvantaged countries in a significant manner.

64. Regional cooperation among developing countries was considered by many delegations as a very important step in the process of integration into the global economy because it could provide the capacity to withstand the difficulties involved in the globalization and liberalization process. It could also upgrade the institutional and human resource base that would enable the countries to adapt to globalization. Some delegations emphasized the need for improved coordination of the strategies and activities of groups of developing countries for a process of gradual integration into the global economy. They also suggested wider coverage of this subject in the Administrator's report.

C. Progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

65. All delegations taking the floor confirmed that the new directions strategy has placed TCDC in the mainstream of development enterprise in the new era of globalization and liberalization. Most delegations spoke about their participation in activities of strategic focus in partnership with other countries and gains from such programmes. The new directions strategy has led to expanded TCDC, broader partnership programmes and support through triangular arrangements.

66. Cooperation in science and technology was highlighted by most delegations as a crucial element in economic development. The knowledge available in the South was both relevant and high in quality and it was not difficult to pool and share it, owing to the developments in information technology. There were many fields for propitious cooperation for development such as food security, health care and sanitation, information technology, clean and renewable energy, building technology, and urban management. A coordinated plan of action was needed that would be based on the ideal of sharing and concerted initiative. On issues of globalization such as trade, investment, debt, standardization, environment or mobility of labour, the urgent requirement was for convergence of ideas and experiences and coordinated negotiation or action. Learning from one another and emulating the best practices held the key to smoothing the process of integration into the global economy.

67. Dissemination of knowledge and use of information technology, which is one of the cornerstones of the new directions strategy, attracted the attention of most countries. Most countries considered that the gathering and sharing of knowledge held the key to success in the development enterprise and that the information revolution had the potential to make that success an achievable target. Many members drew attention to the need to compile best practices or successful experiences and disseminate them promptly. While the array of services provided by WIDE was appreciated by most delegations, all of them asked for enhancement of its quality. They asked for easy access to the knowledge stored within the United Nations development system through WIDE. In this context, they also requested prompt updating of WIDE databases. Furthermore, they requested increased connectivity between WIDE and other databases maintained by national, regional and academic organizations. Some also felt that WIDE must be made more user-friendly.

68. Most countries noted with satisfaction that the pivotal countries had become hubs and benefactors for TCDC and that simultaneously, two-way cooperation between countries was increasing significantly, enhancing one another's capacities. Many countries thought that the role of the pivotal countries in development cooperation could be further expanded and made more meaningful with support from developed countries as well as from the United Nations development system. The capacities of pivotal countries needed to be better documented, the specialized field of expertise of each country needed to be more clearly identified and their lead role in TCDC activities required supplementary financial support. WIDE could be usefully exploited to advertise capacities of pivotal countries and successful experiences of their TCDC initiatives.

69. Most countries found it beneficial that horizontal cooperation, which had been primarily at the bilateral and subregional level, had begun to reach out to the regional and interregional levels. In their view, expansion of cooperation beyond bilateral partners and regional and interregional initiatives enhanced the scope and quality of South-South cooperation. It was also recognized that such initiatives required intermediation by the Special Unit for TCDC and other intergovernmental, multilateral or private-sector organizations. In this context, many countries appreciated the collaboration of the United Nations development system, and particularly of UNDP, with non-governmental and private-sector institutions.

70. Most countries expressed satisfaction with the growth of triangular cooperation arrangements but considered them inadequate in responding to the financing needs of South-South cooperation. It was noted that sudden crises had a dampening effect on the capacity of developing countries to allocate resources for TCDC. It was further noted that a decline in official development assistance (ODA) and a reduction in voluntary contributions to the core resources for UNDP were adversely affecting development cooperation as a whole. There was an urgent appeal to arrest this trend.

71. Many countries were encouraged by the report on propitious movement, in a number of cases, towards the integration of TCDC and ECDC. Some delegations commented that this was essential for rapid economic growth in the South. The success of TCDC in the long run lay in the growth of ECDC. Only in this way could a lasting contribution to sustainable economic development be made.

D. Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

72. Most delegations acknowledged the special role of the United Nations development system in promoting and expanding TCDC and also complimented the commitment of United Nations organizations to TCDC. It was emphasized, however, that TCDC needs to be mainstreamed in the operational activities of the United Nations development system through specific mechanisms and practices. The importance of the Guidelines for the review of policies and procedures of the United Nations development system was highlighted in this context. Some countries suggested that the reporting format for TCDC activities should be incorporated into the Guidelines and that other measures should be considered to achieve mainstreaming.

73. Inquiries about the resources of trust funds and the activities supported by them were made by some delegations. The low level of contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation was noted. The contributions announced by China ($250,000) and the Republic of Korea ($50,000) for the year 2001 were warmly received. The contributions by the Government of Japan to TCDC through its Japan Human Resources Development Fund, totalling $11.4 million for the biennium 1999-2000, were acclaimed.

74. Some countries requested higher pledges to the core resources of UNDP. Most countries urged generous contributions from both developed and developing countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation.

75. Most delegations appreciated the work of the Special Unit for TCDC and its support to the implementation of the new directions strategy. They reiterated the need to ensure that the Special Unit is adequately staffed to enable it to continue to discharge its duties for the promotion and expansion of TCDC in a befitting manner.

V. Thematic discussion: "The role of technical cooperation among developing countries in science and technology for development"

76. The session opened with the delivery of the keynote address, "Building Critical Science and Technology Capacities for Sustainable Human Development in the South", by Dr. M. H. A. Hassan, Secretary-General, Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNSO). Dr. Hassan outlined three challenges to science-based development in the South: (a) how to reduce the growing North-South gap in the production and use of science and technology; (b) how to develop, sustain and use local capacities and leadership in science and technology; and (c) how to build a strong case for supporting the development of science and technology in the South. He also observed that developments in information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as email and the Internet presented opportunities, citing the example of the development of wireless technology in Ghana, and noted the growth of science and technology in Argentina, China and Mexico, which have established advanced research and training programmes and centres of excellence. The fact that larger countries of the South had a critical mass of scientists and technology experts also provided opportunities for other developing countries to benefit from their expertise.

77. To meet the challenges and take advantage of opportunities, Dr. Hassan then described a 12-point action plan for building capacities in science and technology. Its main features included: renovating education systems; setting up and strengthening units of excellence in science and technology with universities and institutions in the developing countries; launching major fellowship programmes to support graduate and post-graduate education at southern centres of excellence; establishing networks of institutions to address critical problems facing the South; sharing innovative and successful experiences in science and technology in developing countries; establishing and strengthening merit-based science academies; setting up interdisciplinary panels of experts in the South; obtaining the active participation of the private sector in the development of science and technology; mobilizing eminent expatriate scientists; holding South science summits; developing strong political will at the national and regional levels to support science and

technology in the developing countries; and finding innovative ways to fund the promotion of cooperation in science and technology in the South.

78. Responding to comments and queries from several delegations, Dr. Hassan emphasized the value of participation by Ministers of Science and Technology in conferences involving heads of academies of science as a means of gaining national support for science and technology. He also recommended peer reviews as part of the process of selecting research and training institutions for inclusion in directories.

79. After the delivery of the keynote address, the High-level Committee turned its attention to five presentations thematically related to the main topic of discussion.

80. The first panellist, Dr. Amitav Rath, Director, Policy Research International, Inc., addressed the High-level Committee on the topic "South-South Cooperation in Science and Technology for Development". Starting from the assumption that all socially useful activities embody sets of knowledge and technologies and thus fall in the science and technology category, Dr. Rath continued by observing that the South is the repository of much useful and practical knowledge that needs to be shared. However, in order for science and technology to contribute to development, knowledge must be made more readily available, its application must be expanded and it must be applied more effectively. An effective system for the creation and use of knowledge requires an educated, skilled workforce; education institutions that generate knowledge and train new people; scientific research laboratories; supporting institutional infrastructure; production and dissemination of scientific and technical information; a social and production system that demands and uses new knowledge and promotes new technologies; and policies and resources that support all of the above and enable their close integration.

81. In the present changing environment, characterized by continued breakthroughs in ICTs, biotechnologies and new materials, and alterations in the nature of science and knowledge systems, knowledge is increasingly a network activity requiring connectivity and cooperation. A more differentiated and heterogeneous South offers new opportunities such as complementarities for exchanges, effective use of scarce science and technology resources, and strategic alliances. In this context, the South must increasingly acquire and adapt knowledge available in the North while developing its own capacity to build and improve technologies for its own use and document its own efforts and the results of South-South cooperation to strengthen the South's belief in the importance of such activities. Dr. Rath provided a number of examples of successful South-South partnerships in the applications of science and technology for development.

82. To respond to the needs of developing countries with respect to knowledge systems and technologies, Dr. Rath suggested a framework for action that focused on two main actors: Governments of the South and the Special Unit for TCDC. The former should review and take stock of national programmes; allocate one per cent of gross domestic product for the support of science and technology; increase demand for knowledge applications and innovations; and provide improved networking and cooperation mechanisms. Taking into account that the Special Unit for TCDC is understaffed and underfunded, it must be selective in its activities, which should include: improving knowledge of all TCDC programmes worldwide; highlighting and exchanging successful and unsuccessful development experiments; increasing research cooperation; developing knowledge platforms in priority areas, including increasing the usefulness of WIDE; developing new criteria for the

selection of initiatives to be supported; and increasing the participation of new actors, e.g., the private sector, social sector, and foundations.

83. Dr. Rath recommended that developing countries should not approve intellectual property rights regimes that exceed the minimum requirements established by the World Trade Organization. Concerning the characterization of the North as primarily a producer of technology while the South is mainly a consumer and executor of technology, Dr. Rath noted that while the North produces more technology than the South, the South finds that much of northern technology is either too expensive or not useful. However, until the South builds its capacity, it must use northern technology, but it should be a consumer and producer in all markets.

84. Dr. Mervat Badawi, Director, Technical Department, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, began her presentation, "South-South Cooperation in Science and Technology: The Role of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development", by providing a broad picture of the philosophies, issues and factors underlying Arab cooperation in science and technology. She stressed that Arab cooperation is strongly motivated by deeply rooted historical, cultural and geographical ties and that the Arab experience proves that such ties strengthen cooperation between third-world countries. Furthermore, such ties augur well for regional cooperation since the Arab countries value the strengthening of regional ties and cooperation with other southern countries.

85. Technology, described as a key to sustainable development, is a priority on the regional agenda since it is seen as a condition for the achievement of national and regional aspirations of economic prosperity and political independence. The development of an indigenous technological base will provide developing countries with the knowledge and skills necessary for the optimal use of their own human and natural resources and help in devising the production techniques relevant to their development strategies and cultural milieu.

86. The developing countries face two major policy-related issues with respect to the successful development and transfer of technology: selecting, transferring, absorbing and developing new technologies that are appropriate; and developing traditional technologies that are in use. The actual transfer and absorption of the selected technologies must maximize economic and social benefits, minimize economic and social costs, and initiate a positive feedback between technological development and other dimensions of development.

87. Following these broader policy statements, Dr. Badawi described the specific objectives of the Arab Fund in the area of TCDC, inter alia, (a) to foster the self-reliance of its member countries by enhancing their creative capacities to find solutions to development problems in keeping with their own values and needs; (b) to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among developing countries through the sharing of experience and resources and the development of their complementary capabilities; and (c) to strengthen regional information systems and communication networks.

88. The Arab Fund plays a role in the creation of institutions and networks for science and technology in areas such as food security, information technology and health and supports an extensive research programme in, inter alia, management of production systems, natural resource management, and institutional strengthening

and a variety of other initiatives, including the Global Campus, which provides a distance learning platform that involves the delivery of tailored academic programmes over the Internet to a worldwide student pool using state-of-the-art information technology. To achieve its objectives, the Arab Fund collaborates with a wide range of actors, including Governments, United Nations and Arab League specialized organizations, national and international agricultural research systems, NGOs, and the private sector.

89. "South-South Cooperation in Science and Technology for Food Security: The WARDA Experience" was the topic presented by panellist Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze, Director General, West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA). Dr. Nwanze provided an overview of the role of WARDA in South-South cooperation in response to its mission with respect to food security and poverty reduction in West and Central Africa, chronicling in particular its role in the development of new rice varieties for Africa, known as NERICAs.

90. The research programmes of WARDA, which is made up of 17 West and Central African Member States, are directed towards providing appropriate responses to the challenges of the African environment since agricultural development constitutes the backbone of economic development. In addition, experiences have shown that for Africa, indigenous agricultural research is a prerequisite to reliable food surpluses, with the latter being a pre-condition for the development and expansion of the industrial sector.

91. Rice is one of the major food crops in the farming systems of sub-Saharan Africa, with an estimated cultivated area of about 6.4 million hectares. While the importance of rice varies by region, West Africa is the leading subregion, with 64 per cent of area and 62 per cent of production in Africa. Recognizing that agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa required a radical shift from traditional thinking and approaches, coupled with in-depth empirical understanding of local environmental and socio-economic conditions, WARDA began to develop technologies that were adapted to the environment of sub-Saharan Africa without modifying that environment to fit the technology.

92. The NERICAs produced by WARDA, based on crosses between indigenous African rice (*Oryza glaberrima*) with high-yielding Asian rice (*Oryza sativa*), offer a number of advantages: a high yield potential and a short growth cycle, weed competitiveness and resistance to major African pests and diseases, a high protein content, and, often, greater drought tolerance and acidity resistance than local cultivars. Currently grown by farmers in all 17 WARDA member countries, their adoption and spread are attributed to a participatory research approach in varietal selection and community-based seed production.

93. The success of the NERICA experience results from effective partnerships, including South-South and triangular collaborative relationships. Support from the Special Unit for TCDC, the Government of Japan, the Rockefeller Foundation, Gatsby Foundation and the Department for International Development has contributed significantly to such an achievement.

94. Dr. Gordon Conway, President, The Rockefeller Foundation, addressed the High-level Committee on "The Role of Private-sector and Non-profit Organizations in South-South Science and Technology Cooperation: The Rockefeller Foundation Experience". South-South collaboration, particularly in the area of public health, has

been of interest to the Rockefeller Foundation since its beginning. According to Dr. Conway, several factors have contributed to increased South-South collaboration, inter alia, an increasing global market, growing heterogeneity of developing countries, the need for stronger countries to help those that are weaker, a decline in official development assistance and the high growth of private-sector investment. South-South cooperation may be a major route by which the poor can benefit from globalization.

95. Dr. Conway identified several mechanisms for South-South collaboration, which often have both positive and negative consequences. The creation of regional centres to sponsor high-quality research, e.g., the African Economic Research Consortium in Nairobi, a public not-for-profit organization, can lead to the creation of a critical mass of very high-quality research; however, it can also drain talent from other countries. Formal linked institutions connect supervisors of fellows in universities, thereby increasing university capacities and leading to cross-fertilization. While this can be a powerful mechanism if it works well, it is expensive and requires considerable effort to maintain. Alliances, e.g., the Forum for African Women Educationalists, which promotes female education in Africa, are also an effective instrument when they involve the right people and subjects. Research and training partnerships, information networks and technology transfer represent other mechanisms that can play a role in South-South collaboration.

96. Numerous benefits can result from collaboration, e.g., a breakdown in the isolation of countries, cross-fertilization of ideas, strengthening of competencies, legitimization of new development thinking, especially with respect to ideas originating in the South, and the cushioning of science and technology from political and economic shocks. However, there can be a negative side to collaboration, which may simply reinforce existing outdated structures, compensate for weak institutions rather than helping to transform them, or shift resources away from necessary investments in local institutions. If there is only one source of support, the collaboration risks being subject to the whims of that donor.

97. To increase the likelihood of successful collaboration, it is important to ensure that (a) a range of support is obtained from a range of donors, especially Governments; (b) the objective is clear, that is, it should not be expressed as a general notion that some good will result from the effort; (c) goals are well defined; and (d) the advantages of the particular mechanism to be put in place are clear.

98. The thematic discussion concluded with the presentation entitled "Innovative Models of South-South Cooperation" by Dr. Keiichi Muraoka, Director, Donor Coordination Division, Planning and Evaluation Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). While the Government of Japan actively supports South-South cooperation both multilaterally and bilaterally to contribute to the transfer of technology suitable for the level of development of the recipient countries, Dr. Muraoka focused on bilateral activities.

99. He briefly described the nature and objective of several types of schemes used by JICA to carry out South-South cooperation, including third-country training, dispatch of experts, partnerships, tripartite cooperation, and the networking of institutions. The objectives of third-country training, which takes place in a particular region where developing countries have a common base in terms of natural, social and cultural factors, are to transfer the technology and know-how of Japan in a form that is compatible with local conditions, and to promote TCDC. In

1999, 128 courses offered under this programme involved 2,344 participants in 137 participating countries. The use of personnel from developing countries as experts has been a form of technical cooperation since fiscal year 1994. In general, experts either complement and support Japanese experts in a third country or develop and spread the achievements of Japan's technical cooperation to a third country.

100. The role of JICA in tripartite cooperation was illustrated by the Rural Development and Resettlement Project in Cambodia, which has the goal of improving the livelihood of refugees resettling in the provinces of Kompong Speu and Takeo through the establishment of infrastructure in rural areas. This project involves the collaboration of the Government of Japan with UNDP, UNOPS and members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Government of Japan has also concluded partnership agreements with two countries in Asia (Singapore and Thailand) and two in Africa (Egypt and Tunisia) while similar programmes have started in Latin America (Brazil and Chile); other agreements are under discussion. The networking of institutions is a new undertaking that uses existing institutions for regional cooperation, e.g., the Southeast Asian Engineering Education Network (SEED-Net). Dr. Muraoka stressed the importance of needs assessments, feedback, follow-up, networking, effective use of information technology and an evaluation system in the success of South-South cooperation efforts.

VI. Adoption of the report

A. Adoption of decisions

101. At its fifth session held on 1 June 2001, the Chairman of the Working Group of the High-level Committee stated that the Group had considered and unanimously recommended two draft decisions. The Committee adopted both decisions 12/1 and 12/2 (see annex I).

B. Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the High-level Committee

102. The High-level Committee adopted the provisional agenda for its thirteenth session, contained in decision 12/3 (see annex I). The Committee authorized the President to consult with the representatives of Member States in New York on the theme of the thirteenth session and to communicate the decision based on these consultations to the Member States well ahead of the thirteenth session in order to enable delegations to take appropriate preparatory actions.

C. Draft report of the High-level Committee

103. The Rapporteur presented the draft report by highlighting its content chapter by chapter and focusing on the chapters summarizing the debate and the thematic discussions (chapters III, IV and V). He also stated that he would complete the chapters on the adoption of the report and the closure of the session (chapters VI and VII), reflecting the decisions of the Committee and a summary of the statements of the Associate Administrator and the President. In presenting the draft report, he

complimented the secretariat for its assistance in preparing the report so promptly. The Committee adopted the draft report, authorizing the Rapporteur to complete the report taking into account any comments and amendments received from the delegations.

VII. Closure of the session

A. Closing statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

104. The Associate Administrator thanked all the delegations, the President of the High-level Committee and the members of the Bureau for working hard and providing useful directions for the promotion of South-South cooperation. He paid a special tribute to the President for his commitment to work closely with the Special Unit for TCDC in the coming two years.

105. He drew attention to the thematic discussion on TCDC in science and technology for development that provided not only a review of the situation but also a meeting of great minds to chart a course for South-South cooperation. He indicated that it also demonstrated that UNDP was not alone in the business of promoting South-South cooperation: the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, JICA, Rockefeller Foundation, and WARDA were all pooling their efforts in promoting development through South-South cooperation.

106. The Associate Administrator was pleased to note that deliberations in the Committee had identified increased South-South cooperation in human resource development as an area that would make a difference in peoples' lives. The promise of the more advanced developing countries such as India, Turkey and others to lend a helping hand to their partners in building knowledge societies in the South was, indeed, very heartening. He underscored the importance of South-South initiatives in building ICT infrastructures, computer skills and a favourable policy environment for entry onto the information superhighway.

107. He also noted with satisfaction the welcome that the WIDE initiative had received from the members and promised that efforts would be continued to improve the system and better serve the disadvantaged partners such as the LDCs and the landlocked countries.

108. He referred particularly to the Administrator's "big tent" concept of South-South cooperation. The development of new rice varieties (NERICAs) by WARDA, in fact, demonstrated what tangible results African talents, backed by partners elsewhere and especially from the North, could produce. He indicated that, in collaboration with other members of the United Nations family, UNDP, through the Second Cooperation Framework for TCDC, would promote new partnerships in fostering research and development, ICT infrastructures, networking arrangements and centres of excellence in the South.

B. Other comments

109. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, thanked all participants for the high quality of their

participation and cooperation during the deliberations. He also congratulated the Bureau for skilfully steering the debate and reaching a consensus. The representative of Sweden, on behalf of the European Union and associated States, concurred with these sentiments. The delegations from Sudan and Uruguay also took the floor to emphasize their commitment to South-South cooperation. The representative of UNIDO reported on some of its initiatives in support of TCDC and expressed the commitment of the organization to TCDC.

C. Closing statement by the President

110. The President began his closing statement by thanking all the delegations for their participation in the meeting, which demonstrated the great importance the international community attaches to South-South cooperation. He also thanked the Administrator, the Associate Administrator and the Director of the Special Unit for TCDC for their very informative and analytical reports and their additional contributions to the deliberations of the meeting.

111. He reminded the delegations that the work of the Committee was rooted in the desire to establish an inclusive and equitable international economic order in which South-South cooperation has an important role to play. He expressed the view that the middle-income pivotal countries were providing a great service by lending a helping hand to their other partners who were lagging behind. He welcomed the triangular arrangements through which the developed countries were sharing the burden of international development. He also applauded the commitment of UNDP to bring new models of South-South cooperation to the fore in international development cooperation.

112. The President reiterated his own commitment and also that of the Bureau to work very closely with the Special Unit for TCDC in the coming two years to implement faithfully the decisions of the Committee and advance South-South cooperation.

VIII. Organizational matters

113. The High-level Committee held its organizational meeting in New York on 8 May 2001 to elect the Bureau of the twelfth session of the Committee and to adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work.

A. Agenda of the organizational meeting

114. The High-level Committee adopted the agenda of its organizational meeting (TCDC/12/L.1).

B. Election of the President

115. Ambassador Alounkèo Kittikhoun, Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations, was elected President of the High-level Committee by acclamation.

C. Election of officers other than the President

116. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Vice-Presidents:

Ambassador Percy Metsing Mangoaela (Lesotho)
Mr. Fabio Cassese (Italy)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Jean Maxime Murat (Haiti)

117. The High-level Committee approved the President's recommendation that Ambassador Percy Metsing Mangoaela should serve as Chairman of the Working Group. It was subsequently agreed that the Chairman should also serve as Rapporteur of the Working Group.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

118. The High-level Committee adopted the agenda (TCDC/12/L.2) and the organization of work (TCDC/12/L.3). A general debate would be held in the plenary from 29 to 30 May 2001 on items 2, 3 and 4. The Working Group, scheduled to begin its work on 31 May 2001, was assigned agenda items 2, 3 and 4 for substantive discussion and recommendations to the Committee. For a list of documents considered by the Committee at its twelfth session, see annex II to the present report.

Notes

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap I.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/35/39 and Corr.1).

[3] Ibid., *Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/36/39).

[4] Ibid., *Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/38/39).

[5] Ibid., *Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/40/39).

[6] Ibid., *Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/42/39).

[7] Ibid., *Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/44/39).

[8] Ibid., *Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/46/39).

[9] Ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/48/39).

[10] Ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/50/39).

[11] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/52/39).

[12] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/54/39).

Annex I

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its twelfth session

12/1 Review of progress made in implementing technical cooperation among developing countries

A. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the validity and continued relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 52/205 of 18 December 1997, 53/192 of 15 December 1998 and 54/226 of 22 December 1999, relating to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling the Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000,

Taking note of the Programme of Action and the Declaration of the South Summit adopted in Havana on 14 April 2000, which specifically emphasized the increased relevance and importance of South-South cooperation,

Recognizing the complementary role that technical cooperation among developing countries plays in promoting the integration of developing countries into the global economy,

Noting that the effective functioning of national technical cooperation among developing countries focal points and the full utilization of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality require, inter alia, adequate financial and human resources and international support and recognizing that technical cooperation among developing countries progress is primarily dependent on the commitment of Governments concerned,

Having considered the reports prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme,[1]

1. *Recognizes* that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should enhance support for South-South cooperation;

2. *Encourages* developing countries that have not already done so to put in place a well-articulated national technical cooperation among developing countries policy, including a clear delineation of the role of the technical cooperation among developing countries focal point, as part of their development programmes and strategies;

3. *Requests* the Special Unit for technical cooperation among developing countries, in order to facilitate and ensure greater understanding of the technical

[1] TCDC/12/1, TCDC/12/2 and TCDC/12/3.

cooperation among developing countries modality, to organize subregional orientation workshops for national and United Nations agency technical cooperation among developing countries focal points in collaboration with the respective regional commissions and other relevant organizations and institutions;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the important focus given in the Second Cooperation Framework for technical cooperation among developing countries 2001-2003 to mainstreaming the use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and *requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to give the required level of support to the attainment of this objective, inter alia, through the use of national planning mechanisms and relevant agreed regional and international mechanisms;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to provide support, including through technical cooperation among developing countries, to strengthen the efforts of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in responding effectively to the challenges resulting from globalization, to enable them to integrate fully into the global economic system so as to benefit from international trade and investment;

6. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of triangular cooperation arrangements to facilitate South-South programmes and projects and *requests* the Special Unit for technical cooperation among developing countries, in the context of mobilizing increased resources, to intensify its ongoing efforts to attract and generate broad-based partnerships for technical cooperation among developing countries;

7. *Reiterates* the recommendations contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action that international institutions and developed and developing countries, in designing, formulating and executing projects for technical cooperation in developing countries, give priority to the use of local capabilities, consultancy and expertise and, where not available, to the use of technical resources from other developing countries;

8. *Also calls upon* the Special Unit for technical cooperation among developing countries, in collaboration with relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system and in full consultation with concerned countries, to promote the use of southern research and development capacities for increased agricultural productivity, especially in the area of agro-based industry, aimed at improving food security, job creation and income generation;

9. *Further requests* the Special Unit for technical cooperation among developing countries, in collaboration with other partners in the field of science and technology, taking into consideration the Seoul Accord and the recommendations emanating from the thematic discussion on science and technology in the twelfth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of technical cooperation among developing countries, to catalyse technical cooperation among developing countries programmes specifically designed to enhance exchanges and the sharing of knowledge and information on science and technology, including technology development, applied technology, information and communication technology, biotechnology, electronics, renewable energy and traditional technologies;

10. *Commends* the evolving economic cooperation between African and Asian countries in the context of effective follow-up to the Tokyo International Conference on African Development;

11. *Commends* the efforts of the Special Unit for establishing an Internet-based gateway for South-South cooperation, known as the Web of Information for Development, and, in this context, *requests* all organizations of the United Nations development system, including regional commissions, to make information in their existing databases on South-South cooperation activities more accessible through the Web of Information for Development; and *calls upon* the Special Unit to continue to assist developing countries, especially least developed countries, to facilitate and enable their connectivity and use of information and communication technology as well as the establishment of home pages on the Internet;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Special Unit in promoting South-South knowledge-sharing through compilation and dissemination of successful practices in developing countries in areas such as social development, economic development, protection of the environment and science and technology, and encourages the Special Unit to continue with and enhance such efforts;

B. Review of progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/119 of 20 December 1995, 52/205 of 18 December 1997 and 54/226 of 22 December 1999 as well as the related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on economic cooperation among developing countries and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling its decisions 9/2 of 2 June 1995, 10/1 B of 9 May 1997 and 11/1 B of 4 June 1999 on the "Review of progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries" and *reaffirming* the continued relevance and validity of the new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Stressing that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, represents a viable strategy for developing countries in pursuing sustained economic growth and sustainable development individually and collectively so as to ensure their participation in the newly emerging global economic system,

1. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing number of developing countries, especially pivotal countries, and Southern centres of excellence are initiating and sponsoring technical and economic cooperation among developing countries activities designed to benefit large numbers of developing countries;

2. *Notes further with satisfaction* the increase in developed countries' support to technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, including through triangular arrangements, and, in this context, *encourages* developing countries, regional and subregional institutions and centres of excellence, in collaboration with the Special Unit, to draw lessons from past

experiences in triangular cooperation and design innovative South-South cooperation programmes, with a view to enabling greater participation by donor countries in such programmes;

3. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made by some developed and developing countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation and to South-South triangular cooperation initiatives catalysed or managed by the Special Unit, and *urges* other developed and developing countries that have the capacity to do so to contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[2] taking into account the main objectives of promoting development and poverty eradication;

4. *Requests* the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, including regional commissions, and other relevant multilateral institutions to take further concrete measures to systematically integrate the use of the modalities of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries into their regular cooperation programmes in line with the new directions strategy with a view to supporting their effective implementation;

5. *Encourages* the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in collaboration with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, including regional commissions, to document and disseminate innovative and successful practices of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, including triangular cooperation arrangements and those supported by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system;

6. *Welcomes* the strategic orientation and programme focus of the Second Cooperation Framework for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries 2001-2003,[3] and *requests* developed and developing countries, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, the private sector and other interested partners to enhance their financial support to the Special Unit in the implementation of the framework;

7. *Notes further with satisfaction* the establishment of national technical cooperation among developing countries web sites in a number of developing countries and, in this regard, *encourages* these countries and other development partners, including the donor countries, to assist other developing countries, especially the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries and small island developing States in establishing similar web sites as well as the necessary infrastructure in order to bridge the digital divide between developed and developing countries and among developing countries;

8. *Requests* the Special Unit for technical cooperation among developing countries to assist in documenting and disseminating the special problems and needs of the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries through the Web of Information for Development, with a view to providing a platform for the international development community to help address

[2] General Assembly resolution 38/201 of 20 December 1983.

[3] DP/CF/TCDC/2.

their special problems and needs, taking into account the concerns of transit developing countries;

9. *Urges* developed and developing countries, the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, including regional commissions and other development partners, in the context of the expansion of the technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries modalities, to intensify their efforts to support South-South initiatives designed to benefit especially the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries and small island developing States with a view to expanding their intra-trade and intra-investment opportunities and achieving sustainable development and more equitable integration into the global economy;

10. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit a comprehensive report to the High-level Committee at its thirteenth session on progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, and the implementation of parts A and B of the present decision.

12/2 Overall framework for the promotion and application of technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 52/205 of 18 December 1997, 53/192 of 15 December 1998 and 54/226 of 22 December 1999 relating to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Taking note of paragraph 9 of decision 11/1 B of the High-level Committee pertaining to the management and use of the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation,

Also noting paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of decision 11/2 of the High-level Committee on, inter alia, Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning technical cooperation among developing countries,

Further noting the reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to the twelfth session of the High-level Committee,

1. *Decides* to review the Revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, as approved by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and common results framework at its thirteenth session in 2003;

2. *Notes* the need for the Special Unit for technical cooperation among developing countries to heighten the awareness of the development community concerning the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation so as to attract greater volumes of resources from interested partners and further *urges* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take the necessary action to further mobilize resources for technical cooperation among developing countries into the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation. In this context, the Special Unit for technical cooperation among

developing countries should develop a clear system for the management and use of the resources in the Trust Fund;

3. *Welcomes* the emphasis on the promotion of South-South cooperation in the Administrator's Business Plans and, in this context, *calls upon* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to promote the effectiveness of the technical cooperation among developing countries focal point mechanism, especially at the regional level, and at the country level through the Resident Coordinator system;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme and other parts of the United Nations development system to intensify technical cooperation among developing countries mainstreaming efforts by using national planning mechanisms as well as relevant agreed regional and international mechanisms;

5. *Underscores* the need to ensure an effective role for the Special Unit for technical cooperation among developing countries as the substantive secretariat of the High-level Committee and as the United Nations system coordinator for technical cooperation among developing countries as well as the focal point in the United Nations system for South-South cooperation and to this effect, *requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure that the separate identity of the Special Unit within the United Nations Development Programme is maintained, and *decides* to review periodically the impact and functioning of the Special Unit in supporting, promoting and coordinating technical cooperation among developing countries on a global and system-wide basis;

6. *Takes note* of decision 2001/2 of the United Nations Development Programme Executive Board which requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to consider reviewing, in the context of the successor programming arrangements, the allocation of additional resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries, taking into account the overall financial situation and the need for appropriate resources for other activities;

7. *Reiterates* the need for increasing the core resources of the United Nations Development Programme, which will also raise the volume of resources available to the Special Unit for promoting technical cooperation among developing countries activities;

8. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998, in paragraph 43 of which the General Assembly requested the executive boards of the funds and programmes to review, with a view to considering an increase, the allocation of resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries;

9. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report on the implementation of this decision to the High-level Committee at its thirteenth session.

12/3 Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its twelfth session,

1. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for its thirteenth session, to be held in 2003:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, and the decisions of the High-level Committee.

3. Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme:

(a) Implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries;

(b) Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries (such as administrative, legal, informational and financial arrangements).

4. Thematic discussion (theme to be decided on the basis of consultations that will be undertaken with Member States by the President of the High-level Committee).

5. Review the Revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, as approved by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and common results framework.

6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

7. Approval of the provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the High-level Committee.

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its thirteenth session.

Annex II

List of documents before the High-level Committee at its twelfth session

TCDC/12/L.1	Organizational meeting, New York, 8 May 2001
TCDC/12/L.2	Provisional annotated agenda, including list of documents
TCDC/12/L.3	Adoption of the agenda and the organization of work
TCDC/12/1	Review of the progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee
TCDC/12/2	Review of progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/12/3	Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme